की वजह से लम्बे समय तक बन्द रखना पड़ा। इस वर्ष मद्रास परमाणु बिजलीघर के दोनों यूनिटों मे रिएक्टर की विमंदक निवेशिकाओं की बैफल प्लेटों के काम न करने जैसी असामान्य समस्या के पैदा होने के कारण भी यूनिटों को लम्बी अवधि तक बन्द रखना पड़ा। लम्बे समय तक बन्द रहने के बाद अब इन यूनिटों में उत्पादन शुरू हो गया है। मद्रास परमाणु बिजली-घर के दोनों यूनिट अन्तरिम रूप से संशोधन करने के बाद, इस समय अपनी पूर्ण रिएक्टर, विद्युत क्षमता के 75% तक सीमित विद्युत स्तर पर काम कर रहे हैं। इन यूनिटों मे नियमित विद्युत स्तर को कायम करने के लिए वर्ष 1990 में स्थायी रूप से संशोधन किए जाएंगे और इसलिए विद्युत स्तरों पर इस समय जो सीमाएं लगाई गई हैं, वे अस्थायी प्रकार की हैं। राजस्थान परमाणु बिजलीघर के पहले यूनिट, जिसके रिएक्टर की दक्षिणी एण्ड शील्ड को मरम्मत की गई थी, वर्ष 1987 से अपने पूर्ण रिएक्टर विद्युत स्तर के लगभग 50% तक सीमित विद्युत स्तर पर काम कर रहा है।

Special economic plan for Assam

•11. SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE;

Will the PRIME; MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special economic plan for Assam has been or is being chalked out; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating the schemes and programmes included therein and the targets fixed thereunder?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has been giving due consideration to the requirements of the State for its economic development while fixing up its Annual Plan outlays. Recently a committee has been constituted to take, an integral view of the State's development requirements. The Committee is yet to submit its Report.

Study on the harmful effects of polluted air

*12. SHRl ASHWANI KUMAR: SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent study in Bombay has shown that breathing of the polluted air is so harmful as smoking of ten cigarettes a day; and

(b) if so, what is the situation in other metropolitan cities in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRON MENT AND FORESTS WITH ADDI TIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINIS TER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTA TION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (fa) Presumably the Hon'ble Members are referring to a news report published in Patriot of January 26, 1990 about the statement mad by Mr. Hilary F. French in a paper titled "cleaning the air. a global agenda", published by the World Watch Institute, Washinton.

The statement is qualitative in nature and does not appear to be based on any scientific studies comparing air quality levels and cigarette smoking carried out either in, Bombay or in the other metropolitan cities.

According to the ambient air quality survey, the air pollution levels in our metropolitan cities are, by and large, within the prescribed limits. While the levels of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen are well within the limits the particulate matter is on the higher side. Thus is due to natural dusty conditions and

industrial activities including thermal power plants. The Maharashtra pollution Control Board has monitored carbon monoxide levels at traffic junctions in Bombay. It is observed that the carbon monoxide levels at the traffic junctions were found in the range of 8.2 to 20.8 ppm. These higher levels ate due to heavy traffic of automobiles. However, the ambient air quality levels of carbon monoxide in the residential areas! are well within the limits. However, from smoking, the ca'rbon monoxide exposure is of several orders of magnitude over the levels that have been found at various traffic junctions in Bombay.

Protection against terrorist activities in coastal areas of Ramanathapuram and Tanjore

*13. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) what effective steps are being taken by the defence forces of India to save innocent Indians, living in the coastal areas of Ramanathapuram and Tanjore districts of Tamil Nadu, from the terrorist activities of extremists from a neighbouring country, in view of the recent abduction of customs officials who were later released after cruel treatment; and

(b) whether Government have ■tationed military forces in this vul-le'rable area to protect innocent citizens, in view of the need for round ihe clock vigil in this area. if tsot, what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN rHE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA); (a) Appropriate neasnres have been taken by the state Government to ensu're the safety md security of the population living n the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu. \ coordination Committee of the coti-:erned Stste and Central agencies has seen set up at the State level for effective and coordinated action. Dis-;rict officials of the affected coastal listricts have also been dfrected to iaise with the Central agencies for loordinated action,

(b) Joint patrols by Indian Nav$_a$l, Indian Coast Guard and Sri Lankan Naval Ships and aircraft are being carried out along the line of control, Army troops have not been deployed on internal security duties in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu as the situation does not warrant it.

Committee to Review Environmental Policy

*14, SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.-

(a) whether a high level commit tee has recently been set up by Gov ernment to review the environment policy, with particular reference to protection of tribal interests; if so, what are the terms of reference of the committee;

(b) what are the essential requirements and priority areag likely to be examined by the said committee;

(c) whether the committee has submitted its report to Government; and

(d) if not, by when it is likely to submit its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OS STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRON MENT AND FORESTS WITH ADDI TIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINIS TER OF STATE IN **THE** MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTA TION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and. (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House (See below).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Committee is likely to submit its report by 17.3.1990.

Statement

An inter-Miriistrial Cornmittee has been set up to examine the various issues pertaining to protection of the